



National Parks

What?

America created the world's first national park in 1872. It was Yellowstone National Park. America's National Park Service was established on August 25, 1916 by President Woodrow Wilson, nearly 100 years ago.

National Parks are special. They are areas of incredible natural beauty. They are protected places for people to enjoy and for nature to live in peace. They are where important things have happened in America's history.

Park Rangers care for and protect more than 380 national parks, monuments, memorials, and historic sites across America.



Find out more

Web Rangers

<http://www.nps.gov/webrangers/>

Junior Rangers

<http://www.nps.gov/learn/juniorranger.htm>

Park Fun & Activities

http://www.nps.gov/kidszone/park_fun.html

National Park Animals

The National Parks provide a safe home for America's most amazing animals. These American animals live in national parks. Can you match them to the descriptions?

Wolves



Bald Eagles



Grizzly Bears



Bison



A - I have a sense of smell 100 times stronger than humans and much better hearing. I hunt, travel, and live in family groups called packs.

B - I have been a symbol of the United States since 1782 and I can see fish up to a mile away.

C - I am the heaviest land animal in North America and can run at 40 miles per hour.

D - I eat plants and animals. When I stand on two legs I am 8 feet tall. I have very thick fur and am comfortable living in cold places.

Answers
A Wolves
B Bald Eagles
C Bison
D Grizzly Bears

Mount Rushmore

Mount Rushmore National Memorial is in South Dakota. It is a carving into a mountain of four of America's most famous Presidents. These are Presidents Washington, Jefferson, Roosevelt and Lincoln. The heads were made with dynamite! They are 18 meters high and took 14 years to make.



If a fifth person was going to be carved into Mount Rushmore who should it be and why?

Old Faithful Geyser

Old Faithful Geyser isn't a cockney nickname. It's a natural wonder in Yellowstone National Park. A geyser is a jet of boiling water that shoots out of the earth powered by the extreme heat inside the earth's crust.

Old Faithful get its name because it can be relied upon to erupt . It erupts at least every 2 hours and sometimes every half an hour.



There are 500 other geysers in Yellowstone National Park. It is a feast of hot natural water.

The most spectacular geysers are called "grand geysers." Grand geysers erupt to over 100 feet. There are six grand geysers in Yellowstone.

Watch Old Faithful live on internet:

<http://www.nps.gov/yell/photosmultimedia/yellowstonelive.htm>

Grand Canyon

The *Grand Canyon* is one of America's great natural wonders. *Grand Canyon National Park* keeps it that way.



Imagine a hole in the earth that stretched further than from London to Paris, was nearly as wide as the English Channel and nearly as deep as Mount Everest is tall. You are imagining the Grand Canyon. It is 277 miles long, 18 miles wide and a mile from top to bottom.

Jamestown

National Parks include America's most historic places. *Jamestown National Park* is one of those places. It is kept as it was centuries ago to preserve its story.

400 years ago three small ships arrived in America. They sailed from London on a tough voyage which lasted five months. After arriving, the passengers established America's first permanent English colony – Jamestown.



Have you heard of Pocahontas? She is one the best known figures in the history of Jamestown. Pocahontas was a Native American and daughter of the Chief of the Powhatan Confederacy.

She saved the life of John Smith, the president of the Jamestown colony, and went on to marry John Rolfe, an Englishman in 1614. John Rolfe took Pocahontas and their baby son to England in 1616.



Pocahontas died in Gravesend, England. She never returned to America.